

CASE STUDY



ABOUT SAFE-AIR

Safe-Air, founded in 1955, is a union air-distribution product shop with a primary production line of life safety products. According to General Manager Jason Angio, "We make fire-rated products that are designed to close in the event of a fire. Basically, we produce the guts inside of the equipment that regulates air flow - eliminating or slowing down the process of feeding fires with oxygen." Safe-Air products have been trusted by many and include some recognizable locations such as Navy Pier in Chicago, the Harley-Davidson plant and the Milwaukee Public Museum.

Three Steps Forward with Boschert-Gizelis

This progressive approach is the new norm for Safe-Air Dowco. Safe-Air, an air distribution products manufacturer in Cicero, Ill., invested to eliminate many of the challenges associated with established manufacturing facilities. The typical challenges that can be associated with old school manufacturing - safety, noise, mechanical heat output, efficiency, accuracy and changeover flexibility, speed - also dogged Safe-Air. But Safe-Air recognized the problems and solved them in three easy steps - with two state-of-the-art press brakes and one award winning electric shear from Boschert-Gizelis.

With equipment investment funding from new parent company, Nailor Industries of Houston, Texas, Safe-Air had the capital to resolve efficiency challenges, upgrade equipment and increase production. Fortunately, they had to look no further than Boschert-Gizelis. Resolution came in the form of three innovative machines - the G-Bend Plus 3140 hydraulic press brake, ElectroBend 3100 electric press brake and ElectroCut 3006 electric shear.

Safe-Air had been bending and cutting metal sheets with old mechanical press brakes and shears for years.

Three steps forward, no steps back.

Says Angio, "I can't remember the last time we invested in new machinery. We demoed the Gizelis machines and saw the outcomes first-hand. I was impressed with the quality and speed. I had expected the performance, but I didn't expect the safety measures built into all three machines."



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The safety features of the technologically advanced Gizelis machines were of the utmost importance. Angio continues, "Unfortunately in the recent past, we've had some injuries on the mechanical press brakes. But you physically can't get hurt on the new machines." The Gizelis press brakes and shear feature a light-curtain that defends against user injury by shutting down the machine instantaneously if anything besides the intended material crosses the machines' light-curtain barrier.

Two of the machines installed at Safe-Air are a part of Gizelis' innovative electro series – which deliver a number of important business benefits. These electrically powered machines consume 50% less energy because they only consume when in use, and not at rest like hydraulics. They have incredibly fast cycle times – so output efficiency is improved. And because there is no need for hydraulic fluids or oils, they are better for the environment and eliminate waste disposal costs. Angio says, "In comparison to hydraulics, hands down, if I had my way, I would have nothing but electric in here. It's the way to go."

Safe-Air is witnessing impressive output benefits with the installation of the three Gizelis machines. Since 2018 when the G-Bend Plus was first installed, sales have been up 280% for Safe-Air and improved speed and accuracy in the shop has certainly been a part of that success. Prior to the upgrade, Safe-Air was forced to do a series of different bends on a series of mechanical presses, creating a bottleneck in the bending and shearing steps of production. With the new machines, the pressure is now on assembly. "Where we once had challenges waiting for completed metal parts, it now takes me three times longer to assemble than to cut and bend."



Solution

The shop has also been able to take on jobs that were not possible before installing the new machines. Says Angio, **"We can now circle back to projects we had to turn down – things no one could do – and now we can do them easily, fast and at a competitive price."**

The real proof of the success of the Gizelis machines: Angio is getting nothing but positive feedback from his team in the shop. They have all made a smooth transition learning to use and becoming expert on the new machines. The output is of exacting quality. All of their service and training needs have been met and all of their questions are answered quickly by their service rep from Boschert USA.



Conclusion

When asked if he would recommend Gizelis machines and Boschert USA to others, Jason matter-of-factly stated **"I would. And I already have."** Safe-Air is already considering adding a couple more Boschert Gizelis Electro series machines to further increase production.

Boschert USA is the exclusive North American provider of metal fabrication machines from Boschert, Boschert Gizelis, Stierli-Bieger, PBT and Picot.